

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

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MAY 1, 1967



Farm Bureau's WHEAT PROGRAM

ORDERLY MARKETING

Domestic Mills Expanded Exports

FARM BUREAU'S WHEAT MARKETING PROGRAM

Opportunity For
FARM BUREAU Wheat Growers
To Increase Their Income

**ORDERLY WHEAT MARKETING
CAN BRING MORE INCOME TO
48,000 MICHIGAN FARMS.**

Editorial

Labor Pains

A number of recent labor reports in the public press have given Michigan farmers plenty to think about. Several deal with affairs within labor unions and one may well be the opening gun in organized labor's latest attempt to move into Michigan's agriculture.

In "Action Line" — a popular front-page feature of the Detroit Free Press, a writer complains: "One of my students has been working part time as a supermarket carry-out boy. Now the union tells him he has to pay \$60 in back dues and initiation fees. That's more than he makes in a whole month, can't they exempt him from union membership?"

Well — gentle reader, what do you think. Did the union exempt the boy?

But of course not, since the supermarket where he works is a closed shop and everyone has to join the union to work there. However, they did take the dues out of his pay in "small lumps" with the manager agreeing to deduct \$10 monthly until the "debt" is paid. After that they'll just collect \$5 monthly dues.

There is not much grounds for comparison between this \$60 per year forcibly collected as a condition of employment and Farm Bureau's modest \$20 yearly dues paid on a VOLUNTARY basis. Nor is there much comparison possible between the working investment of the check-out boy and that of the average Michigan farmer — so let's move on.

The second clipping is from Parade Magazine, the nationally distributed supplement to many Sunday papers. To quote: "The notion that mammoth labor unions have a stranglehold on the American economy does not hold up under examination.

"Although the larger unions have increased in absolute size, the overwhelming majority of American workers still do not belong to them."

The third article appeared in various forms throughout the press of Michigan — a notice that Cesar Chavez, billed as the "migrant farm worker who led his fellow field hands into unionism in California," was to appear at several locations in Detroit and Lansing, sponsored variously by the United Auto Workers, the Michigan State University "Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations" — Solidarity House and the Rural Manpower Center of Michigan State University.

Lest anyone miss the point, Chavez is now the director of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO) and only the most naive of persons would believe that his appearance in Michigan was only a friendly speaking tour.

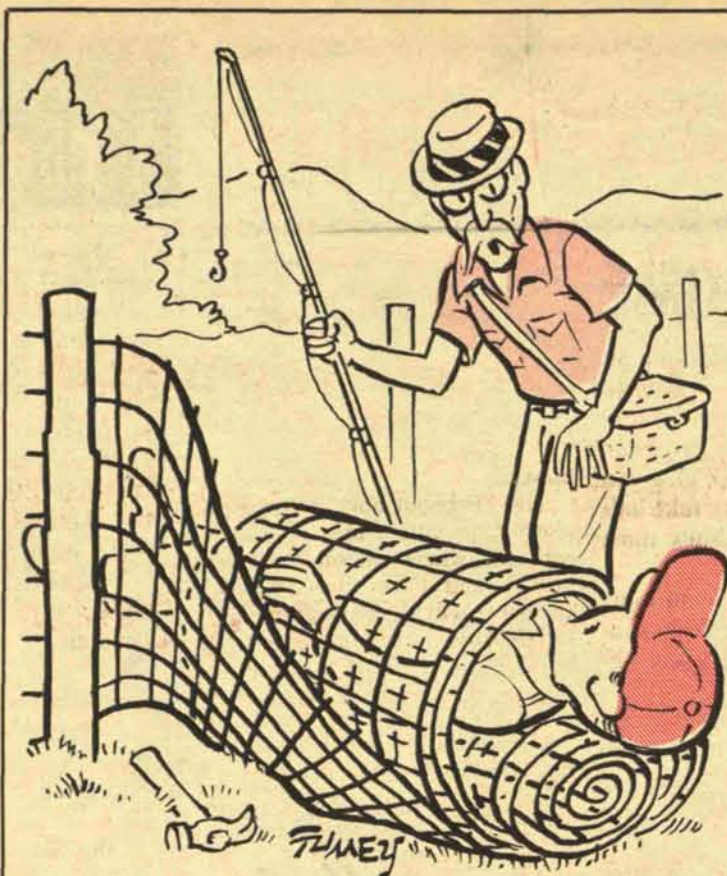
Now, if you were a policy-making official of a labor organization and knew that even with compulsory membership your union was still less than a smashing success (less than 20 per cent of all eligible U.S. workers now belong to labor unions) — and if you DID have dreams of wielding real power, perhaps even getting that "stranglehold" on the economy which Parade Magazine mentions, then you just might turn your attention to the nation's farms.

Aiding and abetting the idea have been those farmers who have weakened the image of agriculture immeasurably through "milk strikes" and similar attention-getting devices. The glib support quickly given to these actions by Teamsters and other union officials are part of the pattern to lull farmers into opening their doors to organized labor, paving the way to a long-dreamed of goal of labor officialdom, a farm-labor coalition.

One labor-union engineered farm strike — at this planting time of year for example, could indeed paralyze the entire economy and worse, could bring this healthy nation to the brink of starvation.

Small wonder Farm Bureau opposes union efforts to enroll farmers or to help bargain for prices of farm products. Compulsory collective bargaining by unions of farm workers would result in the submission of farmers to labor union leaders — Farm Bureau members believe.

M. W.



"YES, CERTAINLY. WHAT KIND OF FAVOR?"

Memorial Day PRAYER FOR PEACE

(The "Prayer for Peace" was written by Carl Saunders, former editor of the Jackson Citizen-Patriot, and contributed to the Farm News by Mrs. Harold Dancer, active Jackson County Farm Bureau member. Mrs. Dancer reports that Saunders' editorial suggesting nationwide prayers for peace won him the Pulitzer Prize and resulted in a resolution approved by Congress to have a time set aside for such peace prayers on Memorial Day. Beginning in 1949 with President Truman, the tradition has since been followed by each succeeding President. The Farm News thanks Mrs. Dancer for sharing this prayer with all Farm Bureau members.)

"O Lord, Father of all men, we come to Thee in humble supplication. Thou knowest we have strayed much from Thy laws. Yet, O God, Thou has blessed us abundantly and our children. Thankful for these blessings and hopeful in the promise of Thy forgiveness, we now beseech Thy special guidance and care.

"Again in this world of mortal men, wars and threats of wars beset us. Jealousies and rivalries of nations plague us. Fears are all about us. We turn to Thee, O God, to ask that in Thy good time peace may be restored to all nations of men.

"We ask that men may live together in understanding and respect. We ask that governments may rule in Thy wisdom. We ask that intolerance, bigotry and greed as between nations, and men and races, may be overcome by the force of Thy will.

"We ask that this United States and its people may be guided by Thee and that its mothers may be spared the sorrows and its sons the sacrifices of further wars.

"Bless our leaders with wisdom. Show us the way to better understanding one with another among our own people.

"To that end we seek Thy benediction and light, ready always in faith that Thy will be done and confident that in the end Thy good purpose will triumph. Amen."

MICHIGAN FARM NEWS

THE ACTION PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU

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DIRECTORS: District 1, Francis Finch, Mattawan, R-1; District 2, Nicholas Smith, Addison, R-1; District 3, Frank Smith, Jr., Carleton, 1015 Indian Trails Rd.; District 4, Elton R. Smith, Caledonia, R-1; District 5, David Morris, Grand Ledge, R-3; District 6, Jack Laurie, Cass City, R-3; District 7, Kenneth Bull, Bailey, R-1; District 8, Harvey Lenzenberger, Saginaw, R-6; District 9, Eugene Roberts, Lake City, R-1; District 10, Richard Wieland, Ellsworth, R-1; District 11, Clayton Ford, Cornell.

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President's Column

DOUBLE-FAST-TIME AS A LEGAL ISSUE

By the time this gets into print, we will know whether the special-interest groups who seek to force double fast time on Michigan people succeeded in getting enough signatures on petitions to make an issue of the case again.

I say "make an issue of it" for two reasons. First, the question had been settled by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and the signature of the Governor to make Public Act #6 have immediate effect — and this was done in March. Then, I doubt that the effort of these petitioners is legally sound, even if they do obtain the required 123,000 or more signatures needed to bring the question to a referendum vote of the people.

It disturbs me that broadcasting stations take it upon themselves to sway the issue in favor of double daylight time. I wonder whether such influencing of the public is not an abuse of their public franchise and a hazard to their licenses.

Here is where the situation stands as I write this column. Congress passed the Uniform Time Act, requiring all states to push clocks ahead an hour on April 29th, 1967, unless the Legislature of any state should act to exempt the state from the federal law.

By March 16th, the Michigan Legislature had taken such action and had given the action "immediate effect." The Governor signed the bill into law on March 24th.

Opponents immediately launched a petition campaign to block the effect of this law by putting the matter up to a referendum vote of the people. If such petitions have enough signatures, properly filed, and in proper accordance with constitutional provisions in such cases, the petitions would call the referendum on the question at the general election of November 1968. This would give Michigan at least two years of double fast time.

Farm Bureau and other groups which favor keeping Michigan's present uniform time law, have filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals questions about the legal nature of these petitions. They have asked for an injunction to prevent the petitions from forcing Michigan onto fast time on April 29th.

Farm Bureau holds that these petitions violate the proper use of the referendum procedure. Referenda can change laws passed by the Legislature, but a proper petition keeps things as they are until the people have had an opportunity to vote on the question.

The present petitions seek to push aside our exemption from the federal law and force Michigan people onto double fast time BEFORE the people have been given a chance to vote on the question!

To me, it is unfortunate that a special interest group can, by getting the signatures of only one-and-a-half percent of the voters, force fast-fast time onto all of our Michigan citizens. The strong, two-thirds vote in the Legislature surely could never have happened if the majority of Michigan people had not been behind it.

We are also going to try the question as to when such petitions may properly be filed. The circulators in this case plan to file them on April 28th. The new Constitution says that petitions must be filed "within 90 days following the legislative session at which the law was enacted." Would April 28 be getting "the jump" on the legal date? Is the legislative session in question still going on? If the ninety days begins later than April 28, such a filing date is not proper. A court interpretation is called for.

We recognize that court procedures cost money. But Michigan Farm Bureau feels that this time issue is of urgent importance to Michigan farmers. It can throw farm schedules so out of kilter that the expense of a court case is justified. Let's hope for a fair decision that removes the problems from the farm operator and his family — problems created by throwing the clock out of tune with nature.

Elton Smith

NEW WHEAT-MARKETING PROGRAM

aim is MORE FARM INCOME

Newest program designed by and for Michigan Farm Bureau members is the Farm Bureau Soft Wheat Marketing Program, according to Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith. "Currently in the process of organization, the Wheat Program, as it will be called, is a form of pooling designed to give the farmer money at harvest time and still allow him to take advantage of the normal rise in the market which comes most years after harvesting is completed," he said.

"Recent studies by the Michigan and Ohio Farm Bureau marketing personnel show that in nine of the last 12 marketing seasons wheat advanced more than the normal carrying costs between harvest and early spring," said President Smith.

With this in mind, the Board of the Michigan Farm Bureau, at their March meeting, directed the Marketing Division to prepare a plan of operation for a wheat marketing program for submission to the Executive Committee for approval and initiation.

"We hasten to point out that this is not an effort to alter market prices by controlling a large portion of it," said Marketing Division Manager, Noel Stuckman. "This is an effort to take advantage of the normal changes in the market which usually occur after the new crop of wheat is largely out of the hands of the producer.

"With the best available information we should be able to make our Farm Bureau members a few extra cents per bushel in most years," he said. "At the same time, we can put into his hands enough advance payment for him to pay his usual harvest time bills on his crop."

Patterned after the Ohio program which operated successfully in 1966, the Michigan program will have some differences necessary to adapt it to local conditions.

County Farm Bureaus will enroll farmer members for the program before June 15. Participants will pay no dues. All costs will be kept to the lowest possible level to make the entire program self-supporting with no profits to anyone except the participating members.

Each farmer who joins the program will sign an agreement to put a specified number of bushels of his wheat into the program. He agrees to deliver all the wheat to the participating cooperative elevator of his choice.

He will be given a cash advance, the amount depending on the freight zone of the elevator to which it is delivered. This advance can be mailed to him for each load or after a specified period, say once each week during harvest season.

Once delivered to the cooperative elevator, the wheat comes under the management of the Michigan Elevator Exchange Division of Farm Bureau Services. M.E.E. will handle payments, accounting and sales on a contractual basis for Michigan Farm Bureau.

The Michigan Soft Wheat Advisory Committee, in cooperation with the wheat salesmen of the M.E.E. and Farm Bureau management, will develop guidelines for the disposal of the wheat after a thorough study of the market and the current factors affecting it. Wheat will be sold when it appears in the best interest of the members of the program.

At the end of the marketing year, the costs of the handling, storage and selling operations will be computed and subtracted from the gross value of all sales.

A final settlement, on a bushel-age basis, for the balance due the members will be made by M.E.E. within 30 days after the last wheat of the season is sold.

Agreements signed between Farm Bureau, M.E.E. and the member will be self-renewing, but may be cancelled by the grower at the end of any season. The grower may decide whether or not to participate, in any year without cancelling the contract.

"If we get at least a million bushels pledged this year we should be able to operate effectively," said Stuckman. "With less than this, results might not be as favorable as we would like. Any amount over the first million bushels would create a more favorable prospect.

"It is a program open only to members of the Michigan Farm Bureau," he added. "Just another reason why Farm Bureau membership pays."

Farm Bureau Board Endorses Wheat Plan

"We ask that marketing be given high priority in the expanded program of the Michigan Farm Bureau."

With this and similar statements, the voting delegates attending last Fall's annual meeting of the Michigan Farm Bureau served notice that in their opinions, the marketing route was best to follow in the search for improved farm incomes.

"Agricultural marketing is of great concern to farmers," the delegates said. "We recognize the need to improve our present marketing methods if we are to receive a more equitable net income. . ."

Responding to that directive, members of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau endorsed a broad concept of orderly marketing for Michigan's prime soft wheat crop through a pooling program tied to a grower-marketing agreement.

Noting the success of a similar program sponsored by the Ohio Farm Bureau, the Board members suggested operating details be worked out by members of the Board's executive committee with members of the staff of the Market-Development Division.

These details are printed nearby.

ON-FARM BEAN RESEARCH

A bean research farm will be established in the Saginaw area to help Michigan bean growers gain knowledge leading to increased production and lower costs, according to an announcement by Wilford Root of Saginaw, chairman of the Michigan Bean Commission.

The Bean farm, on a site yet to be chosen, will be operated in conjunction with the crop-science department of Michigan State University under a four-year agreement. Bean growers will contribute \$35,000 to the program this year through the Michigan Bean Commission, Root said.

Root reported that a two-pronged attack is considered essential by the commission to improve the financial position of the grower segment of the Michigan bean industry. This attack embraces two fundamentally dif-

ferent categories: (1) a higher price received per bag of beans, or (2) lower costs for producing a bag of beans. This means expanded market development work to stimulate greater demand, and research to lower the cost of production.

The second category, lowered costs of production, results from improved practices which enable the grower to produce more beans on a given acre, and to deliver to the elevator a higher quality crop which will take less discount.

It is in this area that the program recently approved by the commission can make a significant contribution to the bean industry, Root feels. Projects which will receive priority as this effort gets underway include mechanical damage in beans, water-use studies and cultural management.

Farm Bureau Urges Limits To Federal Farm Controls

The 1967 Wheat and Feed Grains bill has been introduced in Congress. It would go a long way to put farmers back in control of their own production and marketing of these crops.

Farm Bureau delegates considered that it is now time to rebalance conditions that will sustain a healthy economy on the farms of the United States and to stop the erosion of farm incomes by reckless government policies and powers. Farm Bureau wants farmers to gain realistic prices in the market place.

Government stocks of grain have been greatly reduced by growing domestic demand, rising commercial exports of feed grains and large wheat shipments under P. L. 480. The 1967 wheat carryover is expected to be 400 million bushels compared to the 1961 high of 1,411 million bushels and the feed grains carryover to be 25 million tons compared to the 1961 record of 84.7 million tons.

In the face of this improved supply-demand situation, administrative changes have been made in the feed grain and wheat programs for the express purpose of stimulating grain output to rebuild government stocks.

It must be clear from experience of recent years that the government is not a market and that big grain stocks are not in the farmers' best interest. It is also clear that if government stocks are rebuilt, as desired by the Administration, the power of government to set ceilings on grain prices will be restored.

A new approach is needed . . .

- ... To stop the inflow of grain into government hands.
- ... To protect markets against price-depressing government sales.
- ... To permit market needs to direct grain production and distribution.
- ... To allow grain prices to reflect full market values to producers.
- ... To enable farmers to obtain higher incomes through the marketplace.

Support to Feed-Grains Bill

Such a state can be reached only by removing the government as a principal handler of wheat and feed grains in this country with power to dictate and control farmers' market prices.

If we wish to assure an abundant supply of food to meet the growing needs of the world's population, American agriculture must have a free rein to move ahead in efficient production and the opportunity for prosperity. To remove the yoke of government control over our farms would be to the interest of the taxpayers, the consumers and the farmers. Federal costs of the program reached \$2 billion in 1966.

The 1967 Wheat and Feed Grains bill would make three important changes:

1. It would repeal present government wheat and feed grain programs.
2. It would prevent the disposal of Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of grain to hold down market prices received by farmers.

Every grain farmer knows what this has meant to the price of his wheat and feed grains since 1964-65. Repeated dumping of government stocks have depressed the market and have prevented normal price recoveries. The wheat

market is still sick from the effects of such practices.

Under the new program, the government would not build up such stockpiles. The third provision of the bill would make insured recourse loans available to farmers. These would compare with loans now offered to homeowners by the federal government's insured loan program. The loans would be available from commercial banks in amounts up to 90% of the estimated value of a producer's grain crop. For a small fee, the banks would be insured against 90% of any loss resulting in the loan transaction.

A wheat and feed grain producer could decide how much grain he wants to grow, and through the loan program, he could determine when and how he markets it. Each farmer would own his own grain. The federal government would stop hoarding stocks of grain. There would be no further losses, either to farmers or taxpayers, from the Commodity Credit Corporation's storage and sales policies.

The recourse loans would make money available to farmers to meet needs at harvest time, yet such loans would not constitute any transfer of title to the grain to the federal government. The

farmer could not, in fact, turn the grain over to the government in settlement of the loan.

The Wheat and Feed Grains Act of 1967 calls for a change in government policy that comes close to the spirit of independence wheat growers called for in the wheat referendum of 1963.

Growers, at that time, did not expect the betrayal they received after the vote. And not since that time has there been an opportunity for a recovery toward more freedom of on-the-farm management of production and marketing.

Events of the past two years have strengthened the conviction of farmers that the actual role played by government is geared to keep farm prices down and housewives happy. Farm Bureau approves of happy housewives, but not at the expense of a program that leads to bankruptcy on the farm.

As long as the federal government continues to keep a low-price policy for farm products and an assured inflation to hike farm costs, the time cannot come too soon to rid ourselves of programs that were forced down our throats.

History is experience. And farmers have had plenty of experience — with government programs.



capitol report



DAYLIGHT "SAVING" ISSUE FLARES ANEW

The "time" battle still rages in spite of the fact that the Michigan Legislature, by a two-thirds vote, passed S.B. 1, removing Michigan from the federal mandate to go on Daylight Saving Time.

Governor Romney had no sooner signed this legislation when a powerful, well-financed, well-organized effort was launched to defeat the Legislature's intent.

A Citizen's Committee for Daylight Saving Time Referendum was created, headed by Sen. Dzendzel (D-Detroit).

The group is depending on a Michigan constitutional referendum provision, which provides that by means of a petition, state legislation can be held in abeyance until the electorate has an opportunity to vote on the issue. Approximately 123,000 valid signatures are required.

The group expects to acquire the necessary petitions before April 28, in order to prevent S.B. 1 from going into effect and thereby allow the federal legislation to take effect forcing Michigan on double daylight saving time this year and also next year, until the 1968 elections.

This approach is in reality contrary to the intent of the Constitution. Normally, referendum petitions are meant to maintain the status quo; however, in this case the reverse would be true.

Farm Bureau, along with several allies, has filed a legal action in the Michigan Court of Appeals to prevent the Secretary of State from accepting the petitions at this time.

VOTING-RECORD ON TIME BILL

Senate Bill 1, removing Michigan from the federal mandate to go on Daylight Saving Time, passed the Senate on February 23 by a vote of 24-11—two short of the necessary two-thirds votes to give the bill immediate effect.

Senators who voted for the bill included: Beadle, Bouwsma, Gray, Hart, Lockwood, McCauley, Toepp, VanderLaan, Brown, Bursley, DeMaso, Fleming, Huber and Hungerford.

Other "yea" votes were cast by: Lane, Levin, Richardson, Rockwell, Schweigert, Stamm, Volkema, Young, Zaagman and Zollar.

Voting against Senate Bill 1 were: Beebe, Bowman, Cartwright, Craig, Dzendzel, Fitzgerald, Kuhn, Novak, O'Brien, Rozycki and Youngblood.

When the bill returned from the House to the Senate on March 16, Senators Novak and Craig who had voted against the bill originally voted to give the bill immediate effect. Senators Faust, Lodge and Mack, who did not vote on February 23, also voted for immediate effect, giving the necessary two-thirds.

Senator Gray, who had supported Senate Bill 1, voted against immediate effect.

The House record indicates that the following Representatives voted for Senate Bill 1: Allen, L. D. Anderson, Beedon, Bishop, Bradley, Brown, Buth, Cawthorne, Cooper, C. J. Davis, R. W. Davis, Del Rio, DeStigter, Mrs. Elliott, Engstrom and Farnsworth.

Also casting "yea" votes were: Faxon, Mrs. Ferguson, Folks, Ford, Geerlings, Gingrass, Groat, Hampton, Hayward, Heinze, Hellman, Hoffman, Holbrook, Homes, Hood, Jacobetti, Kehres, Kok, Kolderman, Kramer, Little and Mahalak.

Others who supported the bill included: Marshall, Mrs. McCollough, McNeeley, Nunneley, O'Neill, Pears, Petitpren, Pittenger, Powell, Prescott, Rohlfs, C. H. Root, E. V. Root, Jr., Rush, Schmidt, Sharpe, Smart and R. Smith.

Others were: Spencer, Stacey, Stevens, Stites, Stopczynski, Strang, Strange, Swallow, Tierney, Tisdale, Varnum, Vaughn, Warner, Weber, White, Woodman, Ziegler and Speaker

Representatives voting against Senate Bill 1 were: T. J. Anderson, Baker, Bennett, Callahan, Clark, Copeland, S. J. Davis, Edwards, Fitzgerald, Goemaere, Horrigan, Huffman, Mrs. Hunsinger and Jowett.

Others casting "Nay" votes included: Karoub, Kelsey, Kildee, Kowalski, Law, Mahoney, G. Montgomery, G. F. Montgomery, Novak, O'Brien, Pilch, Sheridan, Smit, J. F. Smith, Snyder, Suski, Walton, Wierzbicki and Young.

BULLETIN - As we go to press, the Legislature has not acted on the Workmen's Compensation problem. For further information, contact your Farm Bureau Insurance Agent.



TESTIMONY ON THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION MUDDLE — is presented before a subcommittee of the House Labor Committee of the Michigan Legislature by Michigan Farm Bureau board member Kenneth Bull of Bailey. Listening intently to his testimony are Representatives (left to right): Philip Pittenger, Lansing; James Bradley, Detroit; Dennis Cawthorne, Manistee, Subcommittee Chairman; Edgar Geerlings, Muskegon, and Senator Oscar Bouwsma, Muskegon.

Farmers Speak Out At "Comp" Hearing

Nearly 400 concerned farmers attended the hearing on Workmen's Compensation at Hart, Michigan, March 31. Some Farm Bureau leaders, such as John Graham, President of Tuscola County, and Malcolm Williams, Sanilac County, drove 200 miles or more in order to be heard. The legislative team, headed by Rep. Cawthorne, heard the testimony of 16 or more persons, most of whom were farmers, concerned with the economic impact the present Workmen's Compensation law will have on fruit and vegetable growers.

Two of the speakers took the other side and demanded that the Legislators not only permit the present unworkable law to go into effect, as scheduled, on May 1, but, in addition, to amend it so that it would cover all seasonal workers.

One of these, Rev. Wm. Benalack, head of the Michigan Migrant Ministry, opposed the returning of common law defenses to employees and said that if he had his way, "migrant workers would be eliminated." He talked about "injustices" to farm labor.

Ben Marcus, a Workmen's Compensation attorney from Muskegon, said that if the Legislature did not cover farm workers, he would go to court to force the issue under "equal protection of the laws."

Farmers testifying included Don Nugent, Benzie County; James Fitch, Scottville; Floyd Fox, Shelby; Pete Lutz, Kaleva; Oscar Dowd, Paw Paw; John Graham, Tuscola County; Ray Anderson, Chief; Mr. Nicholson, Ludington; Percy Smeltzer, Bear Lake; Ken Bull, Bailey; and Henry Schipper, Fremont.

Their testimony did not attack Workmen's Compensation as such,

but instead pointed out to the committee that it is impossible to make an industrial law apply to the problems of agriculture. They pointed to the high premium rates and the economic impact they would have on most growers — in many cases, wiping out what little return that growers can expect to receive. They said that agriculture, unlike industry, cannot pass the added cost on to the consumer and Workmen's Compensation is historically known as a "consumer tax." They pointed to the fact that most farmers carry medical and liability insurance on all workers and many carry loss-of-time benefits.

They outlined the many other economic pressures facing farmers, including the ever-growing competition from other states and countries; the increasing social security taxes; federal minimum wage requirements; state minimum wage requirements and the fact that, in many areas, piece rates will increase by an average of 20% this year; added costs created by housing regulations; transportation regulations; constantly increasing property taxes; higher cost of all supplies and the fact that agriculture in general is facing a year of low prices.

LOCAL ROAD GROUPS BROKE

If you mention a "township local road" it can date you! Not since the early 1930's have townships had jurisdiction over and responsibility for the local road system. Today, it would be illegal for any township to assume such responsibility.

One might find a single, well-to-do township that "bootlegs" a bit of its allocated funds for local road purposes. But such a practice can go on only as long as the township gets away with it and nobody calls it to account.

This is not to say that the residents of the township may not help to finance local roads. In fact, the county governments earnestly hope that local people will sweeten the road kitty, because the funds for road improvement and maintenance are "down to the bare bones." The people who live on these roads must have fuel, get food, move to market and to school. It is not easy when the bottoms go out of the roads.

The shift of jurisdiction over local roads was made in the period from 1932 through 1934. It was too costly a matter for townships to build and maintain roads. It made little sense for townships to try to buy costly road equipment which duplicated that owned by the county. Centralized engineering and road work could be performed much more economically by one County Road Commission than by a bevy of small road units.

The County Road Association says, "The trouble is that most of the County Road Commissions are broke, and unless answers are found to the financial problem, local roads are doomed to decline rather than improve."

MINIMUM WAGES MFB Board Commends Enforcement Effort

Fair Labor Standards Act of 1966, commonly referred to as the "minimum wage hour law" now has wide implications for certain agricultural employers since the inclusion of agriculture in the 1966 amendments to the Act.

Effective February 1, 1967, agricultural employees are covered under the minimum wage provisions of the Wage-Hour Law and must be paid at least the following minimum wage rates:

- February 1, 1967 \$1.00 per hour
- February 1, 1968 \$1.15 per hour
- February 1, 1969 \$1.30 per hour

An employee entitled to the minimum wage must receive not less than the minimum for every hour worked in any work week.

Should piece rate earnings fall short in any week, the employer must "make up" the earnings to the statutory minimum. The single exception to this requirement is in the case of migrant minors

working on the same farm with their parents in hand-harvest labor provided they are paid at the same piece rates as those paid adults.

Who is covered? A farmer will be covered if he employed 500 or more "man-days" of farm labor in any quarter during the preceding year. A man day is defined as any day in which an employee does agricultural labor for at least one hour.

Specifically exempt from the minimum wage requirements are the following:

1. A farmer using less than 500 man days of agricultural labor in each quarter of the preceding year, excluding the man-hours of those employees referred to in items 2 and 3 below.
2. Relatives — Parents, children or other members of employer's immediate family.
3. Hand harvest employees who commute daily from their

permanent residence, but only if employed less than 13 weeks during the preceding year and paid on a piece rate basis.

4. Children of migrant hand workers who are 16 years of age or younger are exempt but only if they are working on the same farm as their parents and are paid on a piece rate basis.

5. Cowboys engaged in range production of livestock.

Wages consists of monetary remuneration plus the reasonable cost or fair value, as determined by the Division's Administrator, of Board, Lodging, and other facilities customarily furnished by the farmer to his employees.

Notice to Employees: An official poster containing this notice must be posted conspicuously where the employees can see it. The poster contains information for the employees about the Fair Labor Standards Act. Posters will be available from county Farm Bureau offices.

At its recent meeting the Board of Directors of Michigan Farm Bureau expressed appreciation for the action of State officials in helping hold down violence during the recent milk dumping.

Governor Romney, Lt. Gov. Milliken and Attorney General Kelley each had a hand in assuring Michigan citizens that law and order would be maintained.

The following statement by the Governor was issued on March 27:

"Michigan dairymen, on the basis of their voluntary membership in officially designated marketing organizations, presently have a vehicle for seeking a fair and equitable price for their dairy products and for resolving any disputes which arise in connection with the bargaining process.

"While the effectiveness of this vehicle is currently being questioned by some, I — as Governor of this State — cannot take sides in this controversy.

"I have no authority to recognize one marketing organization and exclude others. I cannot set milk prices or determine whether or not current prices are fair and equitable.

"I can strongly urge all citizens to obey the laws and act responsibly, and I will take appropriate action when they do not. But I will not interfere in any way with the citizen's right to belong to the organization of his choice.

"In this case, it is the responsibility of each dairyman to participate in the activities of that organization which he believes most effectively serves his interest. . . ."

Attorney General Kelley called on County Prosecutors to do their duty in preserving the peace.

EMPLOYEE DATA SHEET

NAME _____
 Note: Use same name as on social security records

SOCIAL SECURITY NO. _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

Temporary Address (if different) _____ ZIP CODE _____

Date of Birth (if under 18) _____ Sex _____

Occupation. For example, "tractor driver," "seasonal harvest worker," "general farm hand" _____

Basis on which wages are paid, such as "\$1.30 an hour," "piece work" _____

RECORDS NOT REQUIRED by minimum wage regulations, but which covered farmers might be wise to keep, include a record of the social security number for each worker, and the signature of the person obtaining the required information on each employee. If evidence of compliance is required, these improve acceptability of the records. REQUIRED under the regulations is the signature of employees when exemption from minimum wage is claimed because the employee commutes from his permanent residence, was employed less than 13 weeks the preceding year, and is paid on a piece rate basis.

MORE FARM BOOKWORK IN FEDERAL WAGE LAW

The new Federal Minimum Wage Law provides coverage for employees of farmers who hire 500 man-days of labor or more in any one given quarter.

The records required are only for those employing this amount of labor or more. However, if at some time in the future, a former employee presents a charge that you have not lived up to the requirement of Minimum Wage, then the burden of proof is on the farmer to prove that he did not hire minimum man-days of labor to qualify for mandatory coverage under the Federal Minimum Wage Law.

Piece Rate Workers — Each

worker employed by a covered farmer must be paid the minimum hourly wage requirement regardless of productivity. For example, let us assume a worker picking apples at 20 cents a box picked 250 boxes in the week and worked 48 hours (after February 1, 1969, when the minimum wage will be \$1.30 an hour). His piece rate earnings would be 250 x 20 cents or \$50.00. But it would be necessary to pay him \$62.40 (48 x \$1.30) for his week's work.

The records necessary to keep regarding this Act do not have to be in a specific form, but they must show total hours worked per day, per week, etc.

SUGGESTED PAYROLL RECORD FORMS . . .

SUGGESTED PAYROLL RECORD - HOURLY WORKERS

Week of _____

NAME	Class 1/	Hours Worked									Rate per Hour	Gross Earnings	Deductions			Additions 3/	Net Earnings	Payment	
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Total	Soc. Sec.			Cash Advances	Other (Specify) 2/	Date			Amount	

SUGGESTED PAYROLL RECORD - PIECE RATE WORKERS

Week of _____

NAME	Class 1/	Day									Rate	Gross Earnings	Deductions			Additions 3/	Net Earnings	Payment	
		M	T	W	T	F	S	S	Total	Soc. Sec.			Cash Advances	Other (Specify) 2/	Date			Amount	
	Hours										xxx	xxx							
	Units																		
	Hours										xxx	xxx							
	Units																		

1The classification of the worker should be indicated in this column. If the worker is a covered worker indicate by a check mark. If exempt under Sec. 13 (a) (6) (B) — member of immediate family — enter "B". If exempt under Sec. 13 (a) (6) (C) — worked less than 13 weeks in agriculture in preceding year, commutes daily from permanent residence, engaged in hand harvest work, and paid on piece rate basis which is customarily in the area enter "C". If exempt under Sec. 13 (a) (6) (D) — 16 or under employed on same farm as a parent, hand harvest work, piece rate basis and paid same piece rate as older employees on same farm — enter "D". If exempt under Sec. 13 (a) (6) (E) — employee principally engaged in range production of livestock — enter "E".

2This column is for the value of lodging, meals and other facilities. Some farmers may need several columns to record this information—or need to record it on separate sheets. In addition to payroll record, farmers who provide workers lodging, meals, food transportation, utilities, fuel, etc. as part of their wage must have separate record showing how they computed the value counted for each such benefit. They can allow 5½% on depreciated investment for such purposes.

3Perhaps no column is needed for additions but if any are made these are supposed to be recorded.



BEANS — BEANS AND MORE BEANS!

Photo-Feature by: Donna Wilber

Cooperation is the key word for one of the most successful commodity promotions held in the state of Michigan—the annual Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord—held this year on March 22 at Alma College.

It all started ten years ago as a sort of rural-urban affair. Gratiot County Farm Bureau Women, to promote their county's major cash crop, invited city guests to enjoy the multitude of delicious ways of preparing Michigan beans.

The potluck system was used with one Community Group responsible for the ham, another for the potatoes, etc. As interest and the crowds grew, so did the need for larger facilities—and five years ago, the Gratiot County Farm Bureau began working with Alma College to make it an even bigger and better smorgasbord.

Today, it's still cooperation—Farm Bureau Women, Community Groups, the County Farm Bureau, co-op elevators, and the college—working together, that makes it such a successful event. Although community groups are responsible for a certain number of the bean cakes, pies, cookies, candy and donuts, there are always those who "go the extra mile."

Mrs. Lloyd Shankel is a good example. She was responsible for five of the beautiful chiffon cakes which graced the smorgasbord dessert table, where most diners solved the problem of which "goodies" to try by taking a sample of each. But she had also made some "trial runs" with recipes for cookies and candy made from bean puree which turned out so well that she brought those along, too. Serving at the dessert table in the role of "bean food chairman" was another of her contributions to this year's smorgasbord.

Mrs. Kenneth Probst, general chairman of the 10th annual bean smorgasbord, reports that nearly 500 people attended the dinner

and program which followed.

Keynote speaker was Earl Hill, administrative assistant of public relations for the Consumers Power Company, whose topic was appropriately, "Let There Be Light."

Hill told the crowd to "Light candles of happiness" with sincerity, sensitivity and the willingness to go beyond the call of duty in answering the needs of others.

Some of his "psychological prescriptions" included: a sense of humor is the sunshine of the soul; ears hear, mind listens, heart understands; and an added word of comfort to his "bean-stuffed" audience, "Ulcers are not caused by what we eat—but what's eating us!"

A highlight of the evening was the crowning of the 1967 Gratiot County Bean Queen, Shiela Westall of Ithaca. The 18-year-old blonde, a senior at Ithaca High, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Westall.

Chosen from a field of 13 entries in the annual contest, she was crowned by Michigan Farm Bureau President, Elton Smith, and presented with a bouquet of roses from her predecessor, Marilyn Borough, Breckenridge.

First runner-up in the queen contest was Patricia Fisher, Wheeler, with Nancy McKinney, Ashley, named second runner-up.

The program also included a talk by President Smith, special music and entertainment numbers. Larry Ewing, Field Services Division manager, Michigan Farm



"BEAN QUEEN"—of Gratiot County is pretty Sheila Westall, Ithaca, shown here receiving her crown from Michigan Farm Bureau President Elton Smith. First runner-up in the annual contest was Patricia Fisher (left), Wheeler; second runner-up is Nancy McKinney (right), Ashley. The girls were picked from a field of 13 contestants.

Bureau, served as master of ceremonies.

General chairman Maxine Probst's committee consisted of: Lawrence Bailey, Larry DeVuyst, Mr. and Mrs. George Davidson, William Foster, Delbert Crumbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. George VanderVeen, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cary, Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Hoard, Richard Root, Mrs. Craig Hearn, Mrs. Carew LeBlanc, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Heil, Mrs. Lloyd Shankel, Mrs. Herman Roslund and Mrs. Murl Parling.

A FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE...

By FRANK HAND
State Journal State Editor

Ordinarily I do not like beans. But I now like Bean-Orange cake; Bean-Pecan pie; Bean Fudge and especially Bean-Cherry Nut Chiffon cake.

Now these tastes did not come easily. In fact, as you may just guess by the name, it took a bit of mustering up courage to even try them.

But the courage I did muster at the annual bean smorgasbord at Alma College this week. It is a yearly affair sponsored by the Gratiot County bean growers who are all members of the Michigan Farm Bureau.

To the uninitiated bean eater like myself they (the growers that is) play it cool. The main line of food is the traditional ham, scalloped potatoes with just a few of the conventional style baked beans.

There were a dozen different



"EENIE-MEENIE-MINIE-MO — which one shall I take?" Most of the 500 people who attended this year's Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord solved this problem by sampling a bit of each of the cakes, pies, cookies, candy and donuts on the tempting dessert table. Server facing the camera is Mrs. Lloyd Shankel, bean-food chairman.

types of bean salads but I stayed with the traditional lettuce and French dressing affair.

The aforementioned treats, plus at least another 40 other bean type dessert dishes, were parked in the center of the dining area. It is a mean, nasty thing to pull on people, like myself, who are supposed to be on some kind of diet.

But darn it—it works. That table of desserts is downright tempting.

The whole idea of the smorgasbord got started about 10 years

ago when the wives of the bean growers wanted to help popularize beans.

They hit upon using a bean puree. Everyone follows the basic puree recipe but each adds a touch of her own.

For instance I was eating a piece of delicious chocolate cake when the maker informed me she used a "pinch of mustard" in her puree.

The statement shook me up so much I forgot to get her name.

But so help me that cake was excellent.



"CHERRY BEAN CHIFFON CAKE"—is proudly displayed for Mrs. Elton Smith (left), Caledonia, and Miss Helen Atwood, Farm Bureau Women's Activities Coordinator (center), by the general chairman of the 1967 Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord, Mrs. Kenneth Probst.

Market-Economy Stressed in "Freedom" Conference

"The housewife is the queen of the market place," Dr. Harry Love told the participants at two Freedom Conferences held during March by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Speaking of food prices and consumer preferences, Dr. Love, who for 20 years headed the Agricultural Economics Department of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, told the groups that they must listen to the messages consumers send through the market.

"When Mrs. Consumer decides that a substitute product is a better buy than your product, you have the alternative of reducing your price or producing the other product — if you want to stay in business," he told them.

Noting that not even the automobile manufacturers are able to "fix" their prices in the American market, he suggested that they merely affixed a tag which gives a price which they think the consumer will pay.

"As most farmers know," he said, "the price on the sticker is seldom what the dealer will hold for — in short, the price is open to negotiation."

Meeting for one day each at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant and at Olivet College, the concentrated course in the American Economic system came in response to resolutions adopted by the voting delegates of Michigan Farm Bureau in November 1966. Sponsored by the Field Services Division, the two conferences were attended by 150 persons.

The real "shocker" of the meeting was the appearance of Ben

Bennett, a member of the staff of Republic Steel Company. Bennett presented a pseudo-communist recitation of the evils of the American Economic system.

To get conference participants involved he made a presentation of the "evils" of the free enterprise system as seen through the eyes of a communist party liner. Starting with innocuous statements such as, "If there is a God watching over us, I'm sure he wanted all of us to have our just share of all things," he gradually started talking of the greed of property owners who rent to the rest of us.

As the speaker presented his story, some of his listeners began to feel uneasy and to wonder how a man of such leanings came to be sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau. First one, and then another, began to ask pointed questions of him.

Having stirred their emotions and mental processes, Bennett listed some of the fallacious ideas he had expounded and with the help of the group examined them in detail.



"QUEEN OF THE MARKET PLACE — is the consumer," Dr. Harry Love tells Freedom Conference participants at Mt. Pleasant. Using paper dolls and other gadgets, he demonstrated graphically how the housewife sends a positive message to the producer. Dr. Love appeared at both Mt. Pleasant and Olivet conferences.



QUESTIONS FOR THE SPEAKER — are prepared by one of the discussion groups at the Mt. Pleasant Freedom conference. Studying how the farmer fits into the overall pattern of marketing, groups prepared questions which they wanted the discussion leader to clarify for the entire conference.

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AGRICULTURE IN ACTION — — PICTORIAL REPORT

FARM CENTER OPENS



LT. GOVERNOR WM. MILLIKEN addressed over 500 farmers and guests at the opening of the new farm supply center at the Saginaw Terminal. Listening are (left to right) Farm Bureau Services' vice-president Wm. Guthrie, Michigan Farm Bureau secretary-manager Dan Reed, President Elton Smith, and Hein Meyering, manager of the new supply center. Housed in a 40,000 sq. ft. warehouse, the center will have over 4,000 items of production needs for farmers.

50 YEARS AGO



THIS EXPERIMENTAL TRACTOR — was one of more than 50 produced by Henry Ford in search for cheap farm mechanical horsepower. In this version, Model T gas and water tanks were mounted above the engine. The Ford company will soon observe the 50th anniversary of the world's first mass-produced tractor.

PRINCESS CHOSEN



MISSAUKEE'S DAIRY PRINCESS — Judy Jenema — is presented with a gift from the Missaukee County Farm Bureau by President Don Vanderpol. Selected as alternates were Cheri Lambert (left) and Bonnie Brunink. Over 200 Farm Bureau members and friends attended the annual dairy program where these young ladies were selected.

RETIRES



BEST WISHES — for a happy retirement were presented to Isabella County Farm Bureau secretary, Mrs. Marie Farnan, at a recent "open house" in her honor. Mrs. Farnan, shown here in her flower-filled office at Mt. Pleasant, has been county secretary since 1954.

AT SEMINAR



DR. JOHN FURBAY — one of America's most dynamic interpreters of the world scene, will speak at the Young People's Citizenship Seminar, Camp Kett, July 10-14, courtesy of General Motors. Participating in political parties, Americanism, and economics will be discussed at the seminar. Counties are reminded to send delegates' names to the Michigan Farm Bureau before May 26.

ON-FARM SERVICE



NEW FARMERS PETROLEUM SERVICE — the farm tire program — is getting underway at the Lansing Branch. FPC salesman Bill Fillwock demonstrates the new handling equipment for heavy farm tires, part of a program to develop an on-the-farm tire service for Michigan farmers.

BUSY HISTORIAN



MRS. HAROLD DANCER — shown here with her husband — contributed the Memorial Day "Prayer for Peace" (see page 2) written by Carl Saunders. Despite confinement to a wheelchair, she maintains an avid interest in Farm Bureau activities. She served as secretary of the Michigan Guernsey Breeders Association for 10 years and is author of its history.

IN MEMORIAM

Lloyd Shankel, former District 8 director on the Michigan Farm Bureau board, passed away March 25, at the age of 56. The prominent Gratiot County farmer served for several years as president of his county Farm Bureau and as Wheeler Township supervisor.

An active Farm Bureau member for over a quarter century, Shankel also was chairman of the Gratiot County Board of Supervisors' agricultural committee, and a director of the Breckenridge-Wheeler Cooperative grain elevator.

While he was president of the Gratiot County Farm Bureau, he helped initiate the annual "bean smorgasbord," which became known as one of the most successful commodity promotions in Michigan. The 10th annual bean smorgasbord was held March 22 with Mr. and Mrs. Shankel again playing leadership roles in the



LLOYD SHANKEL

County Farm Bureau sponsored affair.

Shankel is survived by his wife, Lillian, and three sons, Richard and Larry of Breckenridge, and Valdo of Wheeler.

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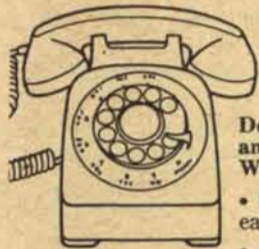
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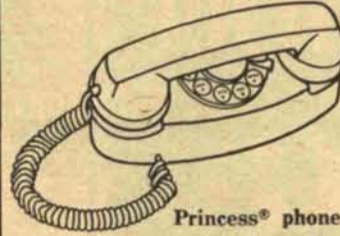
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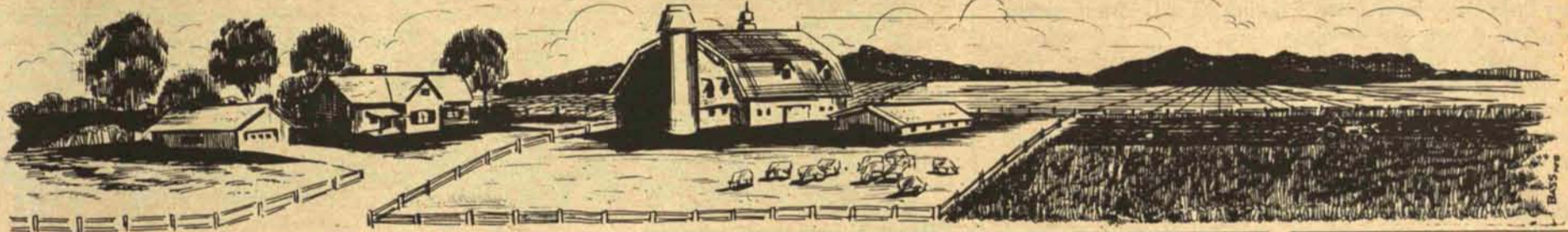
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SENATE BILL 109

DISCUSSION TOPIC

"It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt."
John Curran

DISCUSSION TOPIC

Threats are Real

Prepared By:
Department of Education and Research

It's a fact! There are many instances in which processors have threatened sanctions against Michigan farm producers if they insisted on bargaining through a cooperative. Cherry processors have sent threatening letters to cherry growers warning of retaliation if the producer acted with his producers cooperative, for example. There are others.

It is also a fact that there is a growing unrest on American farms. For a considerable time, trends in farm prices and farm costs have been "running on a collision course" — prices down, cost rising.

The parity index in February of 1967 ducked to 74%. It hurts. It means a tight fight for the farmer in making a living income. Yet, some people seem to think that the farmer ought to be content to be the "low man on the totem pole."

The opponents of the Agricultural Producers Marketing Bill now in Congress disregard the pressing financial problems of farmers. Processors who contract for farm products have "gone all-out" to defeat this Farm Bureau-sponsored bill. These buyers regard their control over price in the purchase of farm products as a "traditional right", not to be invaded by anyone.

Delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in December of 1965 declared:

"Those who want the market price system to work should be afforded the protection necessary to realize that opportunity. We support legislation to prohibit unfair trade practices designed to discourage farmer participation in voluntary marketing programs through marketing and bargaining associations. Farmers should not be denied the right to market their products because of voluntary membership in such associations."

The Agricultural Producers Marketing bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate in 1966 as S. 109. It appears again in 1967 under the same number, and over 20 representatives have introduced identical bills in the House.

This legislation would not impose any drastic controls over the buyer-processors. It doesn't "get tough" and force them to bargain with farmers. It would simply forbid those buyers from interfering with the rights of farmers to belong to and work in grower bargaining associations.

The bill would stop any purchasing contractors, handlers or processors from:

1. Denying any producer the right to join and belong to an association of producers.
2. Discriminating or threatening to discriminate against a producer because of his membership in or his contract with an association of producers.
3. Coercing or intimidating a producer into withdrawing from his association.
4. Offering any inducement or reward to a producer for refusing to join or ceasing to belong to an association of producers.

Senate Bill 109 was developed by Farm Bureau. It is known as "The Agricultural Producers Marketing Act of 1967." Opponents of this marketing rights legislation have been very active and very persuasive with members of Congress. This leaves farmers with work to do.

Since the early 1920's, our laws have granted farmers the right to market cooperatively through their own marketing associations. But farmers testify that buyers have taken sanctions against them and have dominated the bargaining scene in negotiations for farm products.

Testimony at the hearings indicates that processors have imposed acreage cuts on participating growers, have discontinued contracts of some growers, have docked producers by a special standard and have used other similar penalties against those who oppose their will in this matter.

The processor contractors declare that this testimony is false. That is twisting. If we wish to retwist, we have growers who can say first-hand that the processor statement is false. And some of the letters sent to growers are still around to prove the point.

In his April "President's Column", Michigan Farm Bureau president, Elton Smith, finds it difficult to take such processor testimony without having his hackles rise. He points out that S. 109 is "plain, reasonable legislation."

"If the processors and buyers are NOT committing these sanctions against farmers," says president Smith, "What need have they for fighting the bill so vigorously? Since the bill would simply stop their interference, their opposition becomes an insistence on their right to interfere! Otherwise, why spend their time and money lobbying to defeat the bill?"

"It looks as though the cat was let out of the bag in the reply that one processor made in rejecting the American Agricultural Marketing Association's offer to negotiate for vegetable prices and conditions of sale. This buyer said that no one should stand between the corporation and its producers."

At the hearings, the buyer-contractors have argued that they have "a firmly-established right" to choose their own customers and suppliers." This becomes the right to turn away any producer for any reason that they may decide upon, fair or foul. That is a position of power from which they can impose sanctions on any grower who doesn't play ball according to their rules. They demand that such power remain perpetual.

The buyers refer to their producers as though they had a property right to certain growers that must not be invaded. Growers simply do not feel comfortable while being regarded as some sort of chattels of processors.

The farmers are NOT asking to run the processors' business. They are merely asking for long overdue recognition as a basic part of the industry with a much-needed place at the bargaining table.

Such a place is what the buyers deny to the growers. They want to dictate price to growers. They do not want to have to pass along any price increases to the consumer market.

Farm Bureau's approach to pricing has been to take into consideration the facts of the market condition and the supplies available. Prices sought have been realistic! But total refusal to bargain prompts resurgent feelings among farmers in which demands can become less reasonable. This can create a situation which is harder for the buyer to handle in the final outcome. It is difficult to see why the processors retain

their arbitrary position when the "handwriting on the wall" is getting so clear and full of meaning.

Among the principal characters on stage in this drama is the federal government. The refusal of the buyers to give growers any bargaining status is an invitation for federal marketing boards to step in and control the whole situation — a development which the processors would not want and which farmers certainly do not want.

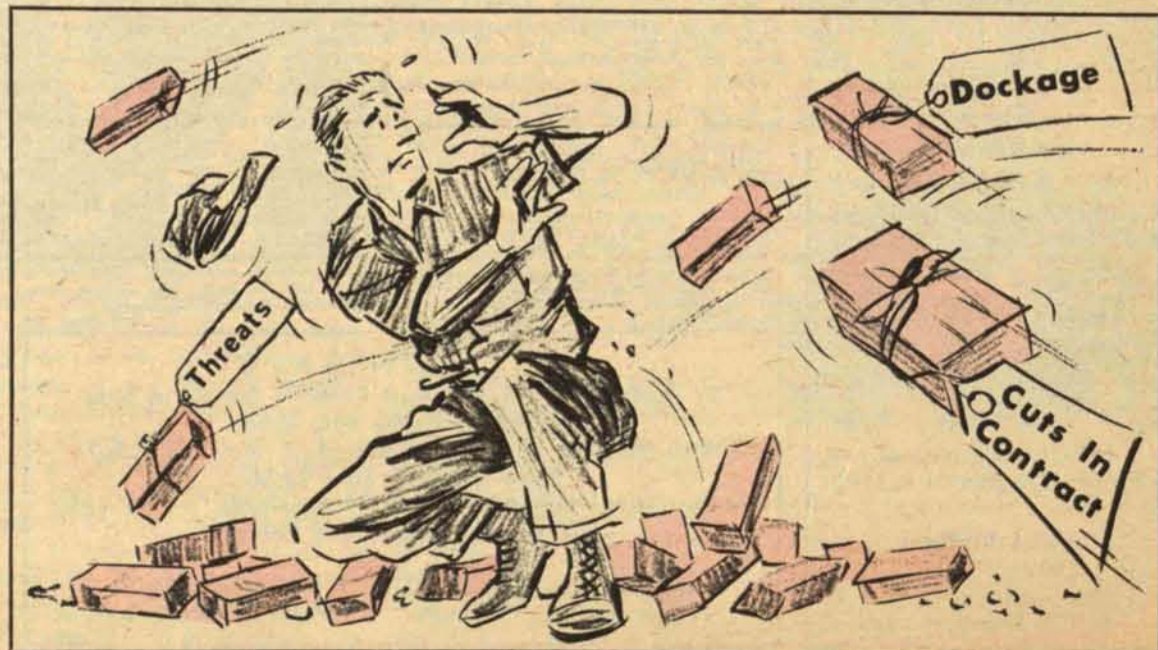
Included in the publicity surrounding the fight over the Marketing Rights bill, there have been muttered threats among processors to "take over their own farm production" and leave the independent farmers stranded for a market. This could be challenged as a monopolistic action, of course, and an attempt to restrain farmers in their normal business operations. Such conspiracies can come afool of the anti-trust laws.

No American industry has been as far out of balance in the rate of return to producers of raw materials as the food industry. S. 109 is an attempt to bring some balance into the system — to adjust the scales of influence which have been tipped for so long against the farm producer.

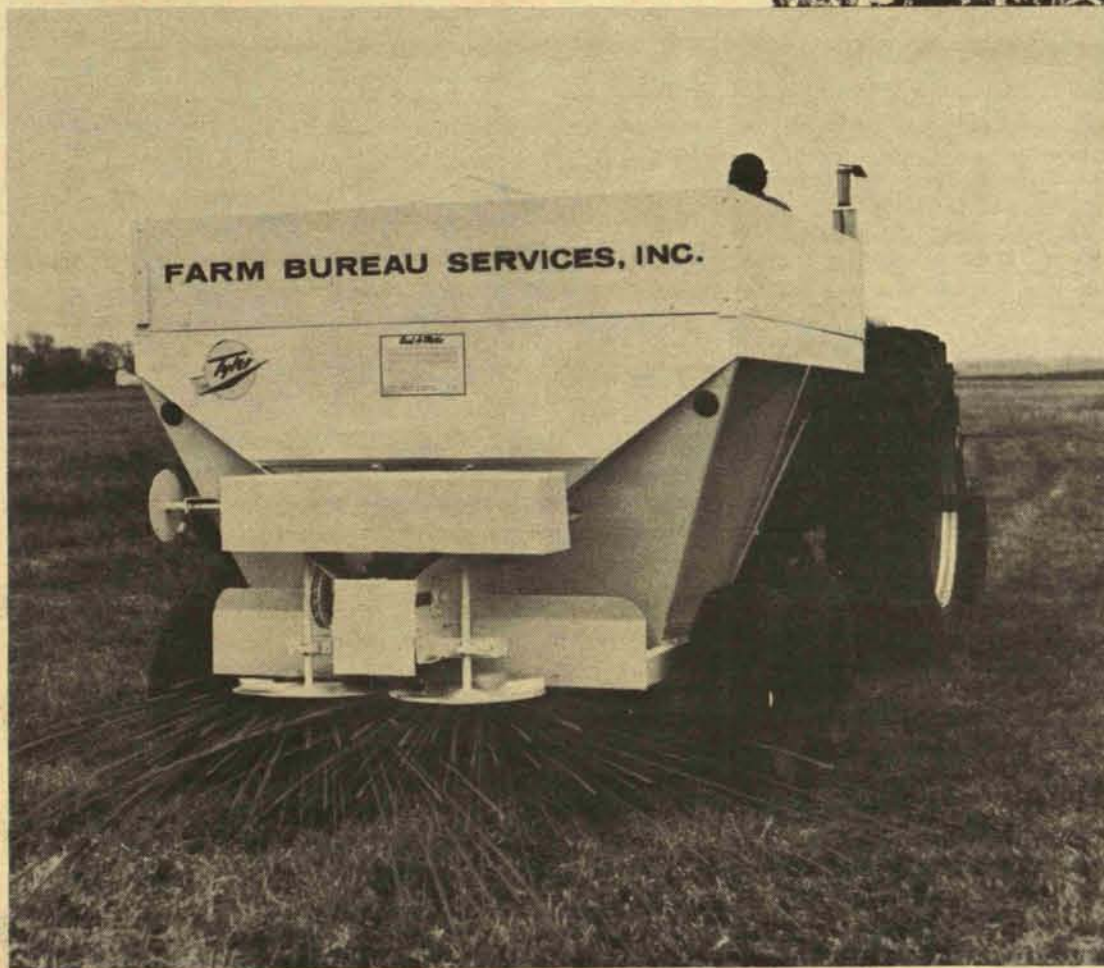
The processor-buyers are throwing considerable opposition against the passage of S. 109 and its companion bills in the House. Many member letters to Michigan Senators and Representatives are needed in support of the bills for fair practices toward farmer bargaining.

Senator Hart has spoken publicly in favor of S. 109 as needed to bring some balance into the picture for farmers at the bargaining table. All Farm Bureau members should cooperate in urging the passage of legislation of this kind at this session of Congress.

NEXT MONTH: The Uninsured Motorist Fund



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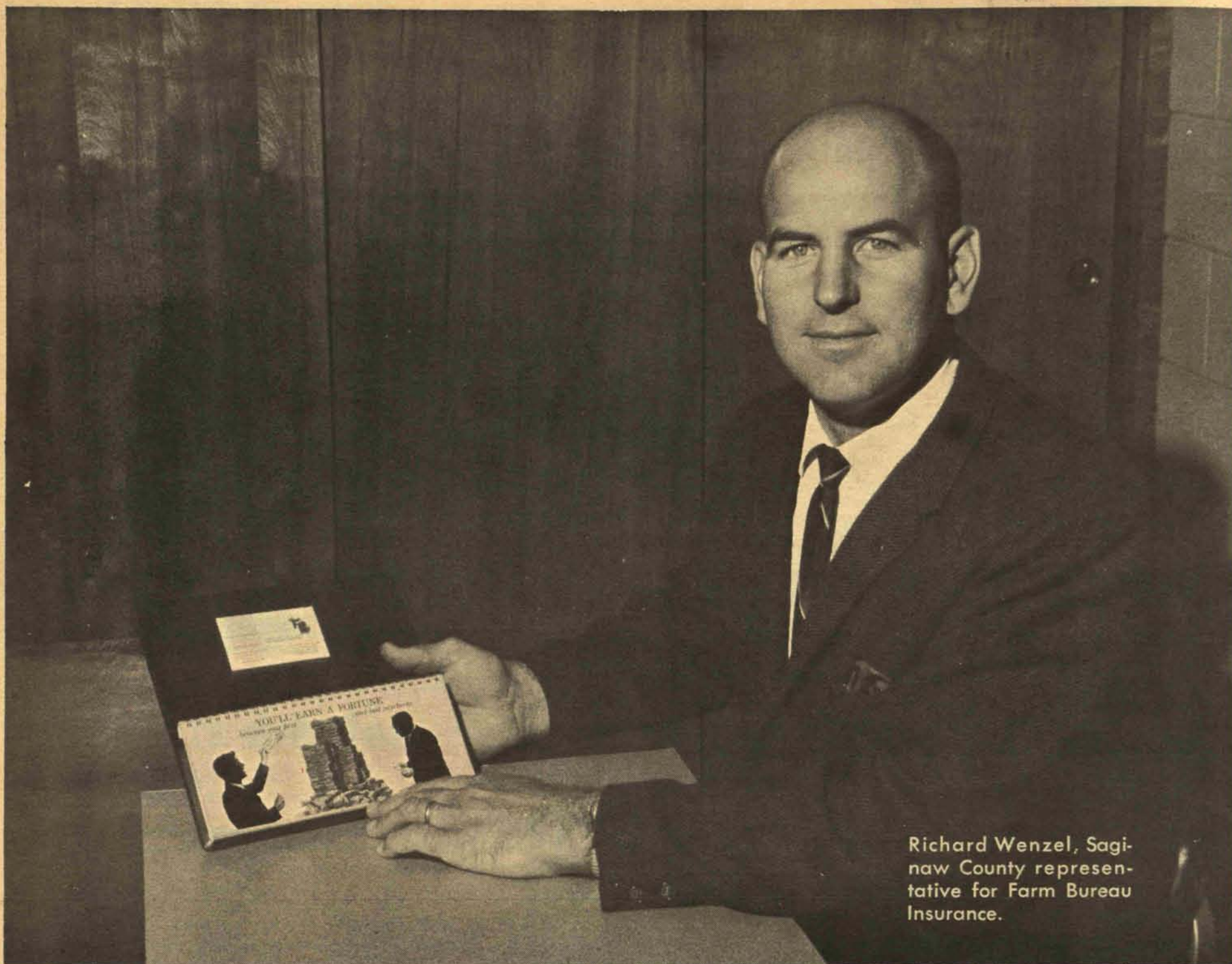
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